

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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USMISSION BERLIN

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118614

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR, PL, RO, HU, BU, CZ, GW

SUBJECT: " IDEOLOGICAL AGREEMENTS" IN EASTERN EUROPE

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REF: BELGRADE 2568; PRAGUE 1337; SOFIA 0707; BERLIN 1032

HELSINKI FOR CSCE; VIENNA FOR MBFR.

1. RECENTLY INTENSIFIED SOVIET EFFORT TO EFFECT CLOSER IDEOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE DOES NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH COUNTERING ADVERSE IMPACT OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ASPECT OF CSCE, ALTHOUGH THAT MAY IN TIME BECOME THE MAIN FOCUS OF SUCH COOPERATION. SO FAR THE EFFORT HAS BEEN MORE GENERALLY CONCERNED WITH BOLSTERING SOVIET- STYLE ORTHODOXY IN EASTERN EUROPE. ITS TARGETS HAVE BEEN ANY ANTI-SOVIET INFLUENCES, WHETHER OF THE BOURGEOIS, REVISIONIST, OR MAOIST VARIETY. YOUTH IS EVIDENTLY REGARDED AS REQUIRING PARTICULAR CONCERN.

2. THE EFFORT TO DATE HAS CONSISTED OF BOTH BILATERAL INTER- PARTY " AGITPROP" TYPE AGREEMENTS AND MULTIPARTY IDEOLOGICAL CONFERENCES. ROMANIA IS THE ONLY WARSAW PACT MEMBER WHICH HAS NOT SIGNED ANY SUCH AGREEMENTS. IT HAS ALSO NOT ATTENDED THE MOST RECENT OF THE CONFERENCES. GIVEN ROMANIA' S DOMESTIC ORTHODOXY, THIS REINFORCES THE

IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS A STRONG ANTI- CHINESE ASPECT TO THE NEW IDEOLOGICAL COOPERATION DRIVE.

3. THE FIRST BILATERAL IDEOLOGICAL AGREEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED IN APRIL 1968 BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND BULGARIAN PARTIES DURING A SOFIA VISIT BY SOVIET PARTY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CULTURE, DEMICHEV. THE AGREEMENT WAS NOT PUBLICIZED, BUT JUDGING BY THE TENOR OF PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE TIME ITS PRINCIPAL TARGETS WERE REVISIONISM AND BOURGEOIS INFLUENCES. THE AGREEMENT WAS REPORTED TO INCLUDE A GENERAL STATEMENT ON COORDINATION OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK AND SECTIONS DEALING WITH " AGITPROP" AND WITH THE MEDIA. IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY REGARDED BY THE SOVIETS AS A MODEL TO BE FOLLOWED WITH OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT THE SOVIET PARTY APPEARS NOT TO HAVE CONCLUDED ANY MORE SUCH AGREEMENTS.

4. BULGARIA HAS SIGNED FOUR PUBLICIZED AGREEMENTS: WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GDR IN FEBRUARY 1971, WITH HUNGARY IN JUNE 1972, WITH POLAND IN NOVEMBER 1972, AND WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN DECEMBER 1972. MOST RECENTLY THE GDR HAS BECOME THE MOST ACTIVE PARTNER. IT HAS SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN OCTOBER 1972, WITH POLAND IN JANUARY 1973, AND WITH HUNGARY IN MARCH 1973. IN ADDITION, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN JANUARY OF THIS

YEAR. THESE LATER AGREEMENTS ARE APPARENTLY MORE HEAVILY AGITPROP ORIENTED AND DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL PARTY DAILIES. ALTHOUGH COORDINATION OF PRESS TREATMENT OF THE FRG MAY HAVE BEEN OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE GDR, THE EAST GERMAN PRESS HAS CLAIMED THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND COVERS "ALL SPHERES OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK" INCLUDING EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORTS, AND TOURISM. NONE OF THE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

5. THE FIRST MULTIPARTY CONFERENCE IN THE CURRENT DRIVE WAS HELD IN SOFIA IN FEBRUARY 1970 AND THE MOST RECENT ONE IN WARSAW IN MAY 1973. LIKE THE AGREEMENTS, THE CONFERENCES DEAL WITH AGITPROP ACTIVITIES, BUT THEY ARE MORE THEORETICAL AND CONCERN THEMSELVES MORE WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL MONTHLY PRESS. THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE WARSAW CONFERENCE WAS LED BY KATUSHEV, THE PARTY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH RULING PARTIES, WHO SPOKE ON "REVISIONISM, DOGMATISM, AND SECTARIANISM." CHINA WAS ATTACKED BY THE POLES, PRESUMABLY AS HOSTS, BY THE MONGOLIANS, AND POSSIBLY BY OTHERS. THE ROMANIANS DID NOT ATTEND.
ROGERS

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TAGS: PFOR, BU, CZ, HU, PL, RO, UR, YO
To: BELGRADE
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